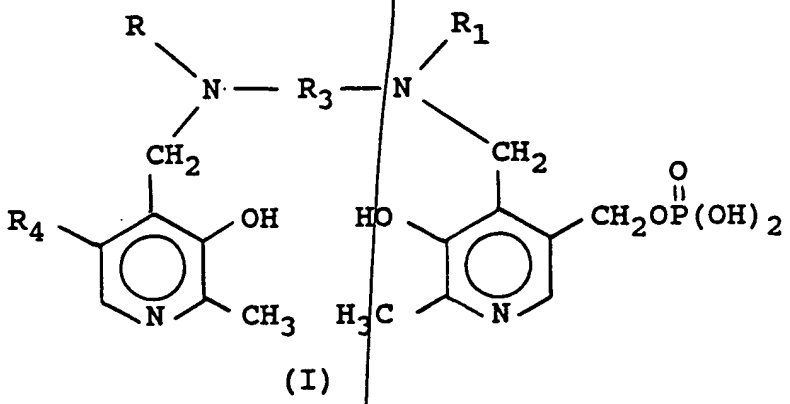
In the Claims

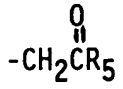
1. (Amended) A chelating compound of the formula:



(I)

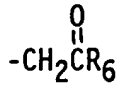
wherein

R is hydrogen or



;

R_1 is hydrogen or

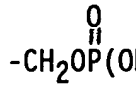


,

and one of R and R_1 is other than hydrogen;

R_3 is alkylene having from 1 to 8 carbons, 1,2-cycloalkylene having from 5 to 8 carbons, or 1,2-arylene having from 6 to 10 [carbons, or] carbons;

R_4 is hydrogen, hydroxymethyl, alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbons or



;

R_5 and R_6 are each, individually, hydroxy, alkoxy having from 1 to 18 carbons, hydroxy-substituted alkoxy having from 1 to 18 carbons, amino or alkylamido having from 1 to 18 carbons;

the phosphate group mono and diesters of the compounds thereof with monohydric and polyhydric alcohols having from 1 to 18 carbons, or alkylamino alcohols, each having from 1 to 18 carbons, and the salts thereof.

35. (Amended) An NMRI contrast medium composition of Claim 34 containing [containing] a calcium salt of the chelate wherein the molar ratio of calcium to chelating compound is from 0.05 to 1.0.

50. (Amended) An improvement in the method for performing NMR imaging of Claim 44 wherein the compound is
N,N′-bis-(pyridoxal-5-phosphate)ethylenediamine-N,N′-diacetic acid,
[N,N′-bis-(pyridoxl)-5-phosphate)-trans-1,2-cyclohexyldiamine-N,N′-diaceti c]
N,N′-bis-(pyridoxl-5-phosphate)-trans-1,2-cyclohexyldiamine-N,N′-diacetic acid, or a salt thereof.

51. (Amended) An improvement in the method for performing NMR imaging of Claim 44 wherein the metal ion is manganese(II) and the compound is
N,N′-bis-(pyridoxal-5-phosphate)ethylenediamine-N,N′-diacetic acid,
[N,N′-bis-(pyridoxl)-5-phosphate)-trans-1,2-cyclohexyldiamine-N,N′-diaceti c]
N,N′-bis-(pyridoxl-5-phosphate)-trans-1,2-cyclohexyldiamine-N,N′-diacetic acid, or a salt thereof.